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It offers only light. Light may be refulgent, and men may "love darkness rather than light." So the office of supplying to men the energy to act will never be an unimportant one. But let that energy be applied in the direction of light, and not in any other way. It is the disposition to set ancient dogma over modern light that furnishes the *raison d'être* of the odium antitheologicum. The enlightened mind revolts against this tyranny over intelligence, and excuses for its authors are not always at hand. Let science, however, avoid bigotry on her side, and she will gain by the contrast. She can afford to be judicial, remembering that the earlier stages of human as of lower evolution are all about us, and that they furnish plastic material ready to her hand.

RECENT LITERATURE.

Strasburger and Hillhouse's Practical Botany.¹—Some time ago we noticed briefly the original German edition of this book, which appeared under the name "Das Kleine Botanische Practicum." We now repeat our conviction of its great value to the beginner, and trust that it will be widely used in this country. The additions made by the author and English editor have added greatly to its usefulness.

Throughout the work much attention is given to the instruments and apparatus used in investigation, the work differing in this respect from any others of its kind. The authors do not think it trifling to give particular directions as to the cleaning of cover-glasses, the placing of a drop of water upon the slide, etc. A dozen pages are devoted to instruments, reagents, etc., and then the student "learns to do by doing." Studies of starch, aleurone, protoplasm, chromatophores, tissues, bundles, etc., follow one another in succession, the student being thus led over the field of general histology, after which he takes up in order the study of selected examples of the lower plants, the Bacteria, Algæ, Fungi, Lichens, Mosses, Liverworts, Vascular Cryptogams, finally reaching the Gymnosperms and Angiosperms.

A valuable feature of this edition consists of the lists of "ma-

¹ "Handbook of Practical Botany," for the botanical laboratory and private student, by E. Strasburger, Professor of Botany in the University of Bonn, author of "Zellbildung und Zelltheilung," etc. Edited from the German by W. Hillhouse, M.A., F.L.S., Professor of Botany and Vegetable Physiology Mason Science College, Birmingham, formerly scholar of Trinity College, and Lecturer in the University of Cambridge. Revised by the author, and with many notes by author and editor. With one hundred and sixteen original and eighteen additional illustrations. London: Swan, Sonnenschein, Lowrey & Co., Paternoster Square, 1887.

terial wanted" placed at the head of each chapter. In the appendix are to be found a list of plants and parts of plants used for study and a list of the reagents necessary, with directions for their preparation and use.

We cannot refrain from quoting a few sentences here and there from the book. In speaking of microscopes, the translator remarks, "As the English student will probably purchase a microscope of home manufacture, it is desirable to state here that the larger and typically English stands are not to be recommended for student use. Their length of body makes it exceedingly difficult to use them upright without a special table; and the upright position is, all round, the more convenient for student work. Nor are mechanical appliances for moving the object-slide about on the stage of utility commensurate with their cost and the want of independence which they induce. Most of the English makers manufacture microscopes with tubes of about the 'Continental' length, but of better workmanship than the ordinary 'student' stands, and suited for the addition of accessory illuminating and other appliances." In another place, when speaking of the "rack and pinion" adjustment, the translator says, "It is, however, of doubtful advantage to the learner."

The objectives recommended are three-quarter and one-sixth inch. Razors, forceps, dissecting scissors ("for which fine embroidery scissors will serve"), needle-holders and needles, scalpels, small brushes, "a small vise, such as used by watchmakers," pipettes, glass tubes and rods, watch-glasses and glass disks for covering them, bell-jars and zinc frames for moist chambers, bell-jars for the microscopes, elder pith, "a tumbler of clean spring water," and a saucer for dirty slides, are enumerated as the necessary apparatus upon the table.

It remains to be said that the English publishers have done their work well; the print, paper, and binding are just what they should be for a laboratory manual.—*Charles E. Bessey.*

RECENT BOOKS AND PAMPHLETS.

- Gage, S. H.*—Notes on Microscopical Methods. Ithaca, 1887. From the author.
Mineral Resources of the United States for the Year 1885. Washington, 1886.
 From the U. S. Geological Survey.
Stowell, T. B.—The Facial Nerve of the Domestic Cat. Ext. Amer. Philos. Soc.,
 Nov. 5, 1886. From the author.
Taylor, H. C., Horsford, E. N., et al.—Bulletin of the Amer. Geog. Soc., 1885,
 1886.
Hennessy, H.—On the Physical Structure of the Earth. Ext. Philos. Mag., Sept.
 1886. From the author.
Lydekker, R.—Catalogue of the Fossil Mammalia in the British Museum. Part IV.,
 1886. Ungulata, suborder Proboscidea. From the author.
Errara, L.—Une expérience sur l'ascension de la sève chez les plantes, 1886.
 From the author.
Nehring, A.—Ueber die Nahrung unserer Robben-Arten. Ext. Deutsche Jäger-
 Zeitung, July, 1886. From the author.